



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*Celebrating 26 Years of Advocacy & Achievement*

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March 21, 2011

The Honorable Mike Feuer  
California Assemblyman 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
9200 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 1212  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Dear Honorable Assemblyman Feuer:

## SUPPORT OF AB 73

The Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families fully supports AB 73, your bill to open dependency court proceedings to the public. The Commission joins Judge Michael Nash, the Presiding Judge of the Dependency Court in Los Angeles, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, in their belief that having dependency proceedings in an open court, except when the judge deems it inappropriate, will lead to more quality representation and better services for families and children. We are encouraged by the success achieved by opening dependency proceedings in other states.

It is our current understanding that you will first seek a pilot project that will be fully evaluated. In the past we have observed the difficulties of introducing change in dependency proceedings, we hope that the pilot will last long enough for people to adjust to change and to recognize the benefits of this new way of working. We encourage you to consider Los Angeles County as a very good place to pilot open court proceedings. We have a large and diverse caseload, and Judge Nash is very positive and enthusiastic about piloting the project.

Honorable Assemblyman Mike Feuer

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We look forward to being of assistance and are grateful for all of your efforts in securing this legislation and in giving it every opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

Patricia Curry, Chair  
Los Angeles County  
Commission for Children and Families

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c: The Honorable Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Courts  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Acting Director, Department of Children and Family Services  
Children's Deputies  
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Mike Feuer AB73\_DRAFT\_031711